

REMARKS

At the outset, counsel thanks Examiner Blanco for the helpful advice during the telephone interview on August 1, 2005.

The Examiner identified three groups of species, and required the applicant to make an election from each of the three groups of species, as set forth below.

STENT/GRAFT

The Examiner identified Species A-Q. Each of Species A-Q was identified in the Office Action with a single figure number. The Examiner explained that he was using a shorthand identification of each of the various embodiments disclosed in the application. Based on this interpretation, the applicant hereby elects Species O, which corresponds to the stent/graft embodiment depicted in Figures 25-29. All of the claims read on this species.

END-TO-END CONNECTION

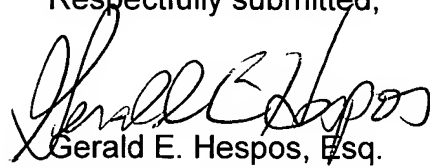
The Examiner has identified three separate species of end-to-end connections. The applicant elects Species A as shown in Figures 1 and 2. All of the claims read on this species.

DEPLOYMENT

The Examiner identified Species A as corresponding to Figures 33-37 and Species B as corresponding to Figures 38-40. It is assumed that the Examiner has identified these two species based on the assumption that a generic claim that reads on Species O from the first group and Species A from the second group also could read on a bifurcated graft. Based on this assumption, the applicant elects Species B as shown in Figures 38-40. Amended claim 7 reads on Species B. The applicant will traverse this part

of the election requirement if the Examiner is asserting that the claims must be limited to a bifurcated graft.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Hespos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerald" and last name "Hespos" clearly distinguishable.

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